

ER

76-6688/1

17 February 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Morning Meeting Participants

SUBJECT : Preparation for DCI's Meeting with
Reporters' Breakfast Group and "Meet
the Press."

The Director might want some briefing before he goes on
"Meet the Press" on 22 February. He also might want some
briefing before the Budge Sperling reporters' breakfast on
Thursday, 19 February.

Attached are some first whacks at questions and possible
answers. If you have any suggestions, corrections, or additions,
please tell me, [redacted] or dictate to one of
our secretaries on [redacted]

Please note I have not dealt with substantive intelligence
matters, e.g. China, which doubtless will come up.

STATINTL

[redacted]
Angus MacLean Thuermer
Assistant to the Director

Paul A. [unclear]

Possible Questions and Answers
for Sperling Breakfast and
Meet the Press

Question

Why won't you make public the names of newspapermen who have been associated with CIA in the past? A number of leading newsmen have felt that this would clear the air.

Answer

I think we've now gone about as far as we can in this matter. This is an area where I would especially hope for understanding on the part of the press. As a matter of sheer practicality, this country cannot run a secret foreign intelligence service if we go around talking about the people who work with us. This seems pretty clear and fundamental to me. We want the same sanctity for our sources you newspapermen want for yours.

Question

Your press release didn't include such persons as photographers.

Answers

No, it didn't. And it didn't include copyboys and copygirls, either. Our statement was meant to convey our intent. It was not a finely-tuned legal document. I think we're going to have to stand on what we've said.

Question

Did your statement refer only to U.S. newspapermen?

Answer

No. If you look at the statement, you will see that it says, "any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, paper, periodical, radio, etc., etc."

In all of the hue and cry about newspapermen, I was interested to hear of a commentary by one of your colleagues (Eric Sevareid). He drew a parallel between now and the frenzy of the McCarthy period. He mentioned the phrase, "are you now or have you ever been?" in connection

- 2 -

with those alleged to be Communists. He added that the phrase once again is "are you now or have you ever been?" an associate of CIA for exactly the opposite reason: for being thought to be an ardent anti-Communist. As we've mentioned often, none of our associations with newsmen were aimed at influencing the content of the American press. As you people know best of all, a newspaperman has access to people and places that other people simply don't have. You can just come to your own conclusions about what this means for an intelligence organization.

And incidentally, the suspicion in some closed societies -- and some not so closed -- that newspapermen are close to their government certainly did not arise with the birth of the CIA. Long before the Agency was born, friends of mine, correspondents in police states, have been grilled on the suspicion that they were intelligence personnel. This suspicion on the part of totalitarian governments is not going to go away no matter what I or you or anyone else says. It's just one of those facts of life.

Question

How many persons are involved in this phase-down of newsmen you've mentioned in your press statement?

Answer

My recollection is that it's somewhere less than a score of persons.

Question

You've said that you won't have any secret relationships with any clergymen or missionaries. What does that mean?

Answer

It's all pretty simple. It means that here and there in the Agency there are a few overtly employed persons such as lay preachers and part-time religious leaders.

Question

What do you think of the *Village Voice* publishing 24 pages of what it says was a version of the Pike Committee report?

Answer

The White House has spoken out on that subject and the

Secretary of State has had a few words to say, and I can only add that we have never favored its publication but we don't want it suppressed: we want the secret stuff taken out of it.

Question

Are you going to take any legal action against the leakers?

Answer

That's a matter for the Justice Department.

Question

You've been at the Agency now for a couple of weeks. What changes do you have in mind in the structure of the Agency?

Answer

Draw on Presidential statement.

Question

Do you favor a single joint oversight committee?

Answer

I don't have any set thoughts on that. Naturally, that is the Congress's own business but I do think that reporting in to six committees is a bit much. We've seen the secrecy problems that are inherent in the present situation. But of course, we'll adjust ourselves to anything the Congress decides.

Question

I see that you were out on the West Coast where one paper said that not that you lost your shirt but that you lost your underwear. Would you care to say what you were doing on the West Coast?

Answer

When I see some of the great intelligence puzzles that are solved by our experts at the Agency, I sometimes wish that they could be unleashed on the problem of airline baggage. No, I was not out to the West Coast to lose my shirt or my shorts, or anything else. I was out for some official briefings.

Question

Did you see former President Nixon when you were out there? Did your trip out there have anything to do with Mr. Nixon's trip to China? What do you think of Mr. Nixon's trip to China.

Answer

No, in no way. I did not see former President Nixon. I was engaged solely in official Agency business. I do know Mr. Nixon is widely respected in Chinese governmental circles, and the popularity enjoyed by Julie and David Eisenhower is quite evident. Other than these observations, I'd rather not get into any commentary on his trip.

Question

Some have said that you were about to open up a big publicity campaign at the Agency. Would you care to comment on that?

Answer

There's no hiding the fact that the Agency has a problem in some parts of the country with what has become known as "image". I'm certainly not going to mount a great publicity operation; on the other hand, I hope to meet occasionally with newspapermen -- as I'm doing today -- and make a few public appearances, as I did on "60 Minutes" last week. This will be part of my effort to explain to the American people just what intelligence is, how important it is, and its role in our government. There's a lot of myth about it and I feel that we should have some facts floating around as well.

Let me take this opportunity to say how impressed I've been by the quality of the people I have met out at CIA, and in the intelligence community generally. We could staff a medium-sized university with the Ph.D.'s we have around there at Langley. You want to know something about aerodynamics, and you press a button and the man who knows shows up. I simply have to say that in the short time I've been out there, I'm impressed.

Question

Mr. Bush, there have been a number of comments about your very active political past and the tradition that such political persons as yourself should not be appointed to the post of Director of Central Intelligence.

Answer

Use material from your hearings, and from your statement the day you were sworn in. Good stuff.

Question

What is your view on covert action?

Answer

Use material used at the Frank Shakespeare meeting in New York. It was excellent.

Question

What do you think about advance notice to Congressional committees on proposed covert action?

Answer

I think we run into a constitutional question here. The conduct of foreign policy is a prerogative of the Executive. Under the present arrangements, the "timely" notification of Congress of covert action of which the President has approved in practice follows almost immediately after the Agency gets approval. There are a number of chances for Congressional members who don't like the proposed operations to make their feelings felt. Just because the Agency has approval doesn't mean the operation starts off like a rocket. There's plenty of time for legitimate discussion with the President himself, if need be, by Congressional members who don't like what is proposed.

Question

You have a lot of old friends up on the Hill. Will you be up lobbying for the Agency?

Answer

Not only do I have friends up on the Hill but the Agency itself has a lot of friends up on the Hill. I certainly will make myself available to any member who wants information about the Agency or its position on subjects bearing on intelligence.

Question

What do you think about the suggestion that the Defense Intelligence Agency should be abolished?

Answer

That's nonsense. The DIA has a broad and vital role in the military structure and in the intelligence community. In addition to its significant input in the total intelligence community, it also does a tremendous amount of absolutely necessary departmental level intelligence which our Armed Forces simply must have.

Question

We've had reports about low morale at the Agency and that intelligence gathering has been adversely affected and that foreigners won't cooperate with CIA any more. Is that really true?

Answer

Give a pat on the back to employees: good morale in bad situation, steadfast folk, etc. But underscore the seriousness of revelations, the genuinely bad effect on operations. You might wish to mention the *London Daily Telegraph* article, "Is America Going Mad?" in this context. (copy attached.)

IS AMERICA GOING MAD?

IT IS TIME America's friends spoke out, with some nasty questions to the so-called "liberal" east-coast establishment. By that we mean sections of the Press, sections of Congress, television commentators and comedians, university pundits and a lot of other people who may think there is a dollar to be made out of denigrating their country's institutions and leaders. We all know about the "trauma" of Vietnam and Watergate, but it's getting a bit boring. How long has the rest of the free world got to put up with these tender-minded people recovering from their "trauma"? Indefinitely?

America is accustomed to, and has merited, a good deal of deference from her allies. But deference can be a disservice. The United States should know that her European cousins and allies are appalled and disgusted by the present open disarray of her public life. The self-criticism and self-destructive tendencies are running mad, with no countervailing force in sight. She has no foreign policy any more, because Congress will not allow it. Her intelligence arm, the CIA, is being gutted and rendered inoperative, the names of its staff being published so that they can be murdered. Her President and Secretary of State are being hounded, not for what they do but simply because they are people there, to be pulled down for the fun of it.

We hope, and believe that the vicious antics of the liberal east-coast establishment, which are doing all this untold harm, do not reflect the feelings of the mass of the country. But it is a matter for wonder. Is the country as a whole becoming deranged? Surely not. Perhaps the Presidential election later this year will clear the air. Yet that is still 11 months away, and in the meantime there is all the campaigning to be gone through. Please, America, for God's sake pull yourself together.

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE 19 FEB 1976	
TO: DCI			
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FROM: Angus MacLean Thuermer			
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION	

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

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WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

*Addendum to
76-6688/1*

Addendum to
Possible Questions and Answers
for Meet the Press

(Mr. Warner)

Question

Isn't the legislation to protect sources and methods similar to the British Official Secrets Act?

Answer

No. It is a far more limited piece of legislation. It is designed to provide criminal sanctions for disclosures of intelligence sources and methods to unauthorized persons. Furthermore, its application is limited to employees and former employees and employees and former employees of contractors. It applies only where there is a privity of relationship and the individual receives sensitive information because of his relationship to the Government. By its terms it specifically excludes any application to persons who have had no such privity of relationship, thus effectively and purposely excluding representatives of the media. Also, the legislation provides that the Attorney General could apply to a court for an injunction restraining publication or other acts which would disclose in an unauthorized fashion protected intelligence sources and methods.

SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM			
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RECEIVED ROUTING SLIP



Executive Registry

76-10688

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI's Telephone Conversations
29 January 1976

Bill Monroe - "Meet the Press"

I committed to him to be on "Meet the Press" on Sunday, February 22. He wanted to have it right after the release of the President's report or recommendations on reform. I told him that I didn't know when that was going to be, nor did I think anyone at the White House, and so we agreed that the 22nd would be okay, but he suggested that if the report was announced to come out a day or two after the 22nd, we might want to slide it back. I said I would be willing to consider that. He said he would not make this public until ten days before the 22nd. (cc: Mr. Thuermer)

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Remarks:

*As prepared Thank you
for DCI signature*

76-1347

IRVING WALLACE
308 SOUTH BRISTOL AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90049

February 18, 1976

Mr. George H. Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

My dear Mr. Bush,

I have enclosed an advance copy of my latest novel,
THE R DOCUMENT. You may note that the book opens
with an epigraph --

In 1787, after the delegates in Philadelphia signed
the new United States Constitution, a woman approached
Benjamin Franklin. "Well, Doctor," she asked, "what
have we got, a republic or a monarchy?" Franklin
replied, "A republic, if you can keep it."

Of course, we must and will keep it, and it was to
underline this necessity that I wrote this book.

My novel is about a day in the very near future when
an effort is made, by a majority in the government,
to tamper with the Bill of Rights, to find a legal
means to suspend it indefinitely when necessary. I
have not attempted a scholarly tract on the subject.
I am a novelist and a storyteller, and I felt I could
best dramatize the vital importance of our first ten
amendments in the form of a highly dramatic, suspenseful
story.

Because I thought the book and the theme might be of
special interest to you, I am taking the liberty of
sending a copy to you.

I hope you will enjoy the book.

Sincerely yours,

Irving Wallace

Irving Wallace

Paul Gifford

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Executive Registry

76-1046

17 Feb 76

2/17/76

CONFIDENTIAL

Hon. George Bush
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley/McLean, Vg.
c/o Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bush:

Congratulations on your appointment and confirmation. You will do credit to the Presidential choice as you did as congressman from Texas, United Nations ambassador, chairman of the Republican Party, and envoy to Red China.

The American people and the United States government still do have friends in other countries. Friends who agree with the need to remain vigilant in order to defend freedom and democracy - even to the extent of better knowing what friendly neighbouring countries are doing.

We realize that the job of the Central Intelligence Agency is a very hard one made more difficult by recent congressional and media activities. And we would like to help you and the CIA.

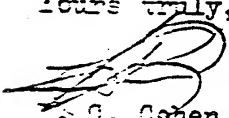
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We are also prepared to accredit your people as representatives of our subsidiary, News/Fotos Canada America/U.S.A. (CMRC) Limited, and arrange release of their material in other publications or our own newsmagazine or books currently in the works.

Our phone contact on the matter for any one to reach is Mr. Lime-Kirk.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours truly,


E. G. Cohen
President


Paul Alfano

EGC: (encl.)

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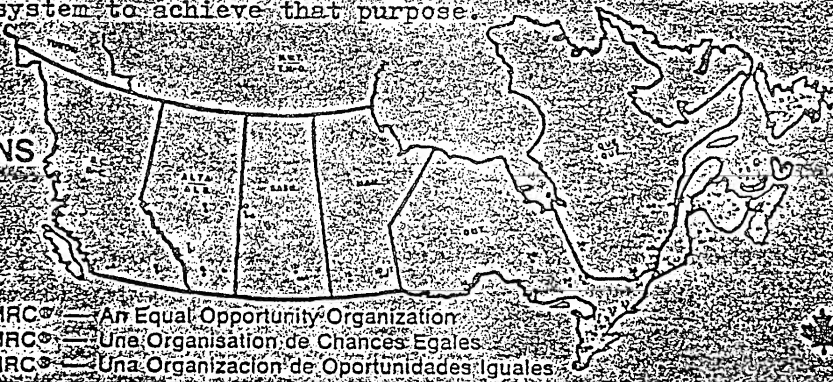
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Paul-Allen

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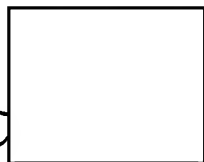
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about are-you-now-
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I mentioned on phone.

STATINTL

See over.



FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM CBS Evening News STATION WTOP TV
CBS Network

DATE February 11, 1976 7:00 PM CITY Washington, D.C.

SUBJECT Commentary by Eric Sevareid

ERIC SEVAREID: Various institutions of the press, print and broadcast, find themselves in an odd and oddly difficult situation as the secrets of the very porous secret intelligence establishment spill out in public.

These press situations, proud of their capacity to ferret out the whole truth, do not know the whole truth about themselves; how many and just who on their staffs or loosely connected with their staffs were also undercover CIA agents. And how many and who might still be agents.

They're trying hard at the moment to clear up the matter, because the practice is intolerably injurious to the credibility of the press. There is general agreement on that and agreement -- now by the CIA too -- that not even the non-staff stringer type of journalist should also be connected to the intelligence service.

But at this point a serious problem arises of a moral nature, whether names of past and present agents working as journalists should be provided to the companies by CIA if the companies are to trace the pattern of the practice and clean it up. Who else is entitled to know these names? Should they be published by a press that has generally insisted on full disclosure about the CIA? Should they be given to the Senate committee, which would almost certainly mean publication, because of the inability of the Congress to keep secrets secret.

Some leading journalists and press executives think the answer is yes to both questions if their credibility is to be restored. But this act in itself would not allay suspicions that the list is not complete.

(OVER)

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And what of the individuals named? They had received assurances of anonymity when they agreed to work for CIA. They certainly believed they were serving their country.

And this is troubling to anyone who was here during the hysteria of the McCarthy period 20 years ago. Then there were investigators on Capitol Hill busy throwing out the names of civil servants, teachers and press people accused of once having been a member of the Young Communist League or knowing Communists or subscribing to Marxist publications and so on.

Dozens of entirely patriotic persons had their careers harmed or ruined. The prosecutorial refrain of the Un-American Activities Committee was: Wave ^{disc} you now or have you ever been, etc? Now the refrain from liberal investigators is becoming: Are you now or have you ever been connected with American official intelligence, an anti-Communist enterprise?

Liberals, including the liberal press, were shocked at what was done to well intended people in the McCarthy days. Now some of the same voices demand that the same thing or something disturbingly close to it be done to men whose crime seems to be that they were not too pro-Russia, but too pro-America. One generation's meat is the next generation's poison.

WALTER CRONKITE: So pervasive have become the suspicions of CIA activity around the world that today an Italian magazine, without substantiation, claimed a Roman Catholic Cardinal had once bugged the Pope's audience and reported to the CIA.

Executive Registry

76-6903

February 16, 1976

TO: Angus Thuermer

For the record, today I talked to Don Hewitt, the producer of 60 Minutes, and Mike Wallace, thanking both for the editing and program. Wallace mentioned he may want to come here in three months and do something he felt would be very helpful to the Agency. I will follow up on this personally.

GB

GB:lm (16 Feb 76)

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Paul Affre

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Remarks:

*See attached DCI note. I have
 also attached an extract of
 the related minutes.*

Executive Secretary

167
 Date

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Pub Affairs

MEMORANDUM FOR:

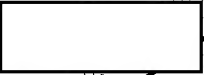
Angus Thuermer and Bill Nelson

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Feb 11 minutes of morning meeting refer to a press policy of not talking to any foreign journalists. I thought Colby and others had talked to foreign journalists.

Please send me a copy of the policy along with its rationale.

STATINTL Thank you,


Goegre /ush

(DATE)

FORM NO. 101 REPLACES FORM 10-101
1 AUG 54 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

Executive Registry

76-957
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Excerpt from the 11 February 1976 Morning Meeting

Thuermer reported that, according to Simon Winchester (Manchester Guardian), the Director had agreed to see him after fulfilling requests from US newsmen. Thuermer and Nelson agreed that the Director should continue our previous policy of not granting interviews to foreign newsmen.

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Remarks: DCI - Results of your Shakespeare mtg. Don't think we need rebuttal but we might want to add some good stuff later?					
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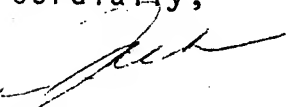
Mr. Angus Thuermer
Assistant to the Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Angus:

As promised during our telephone conversation today, I am enclosing the editorial dealing with the Central Intelligence Agency which was aired on WRKO the week of February 9th. I am also enclosing xeroxes of two responses from our listeners. I am sure you will find their comments interesting.

Should somebody in the agency wish to amplify or respond to the editorial, please let me know and I will make the necessary arrangements.

Cordially,


John Hobbs
Vice President & General Manager

JH:hy
attach.

cc: Dwight Case
President, RKO Radio

EDITORIAL

68 WRKO WROR 98.5

EDITORIAL #142

RIGHT NOW THERE IS MUCH CONVERSATION ABOUT THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF COVERT MILITARY AND POLITICAL ACTIONS CONDUCTED BY THE C.I.A. THERE ARE CHARGES AND COUNTERCHARGES BY A SENATE COMMITTEE AND THE C.I.A. WHAT IT ALL SEEMS TO BOIL DOWN TO IS THE QUESTION: DO WE NEED AN ORGANIZATION TO COLLECT FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE WHICH GIVES US INFORMATION ABOUT THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND INTENTIONS OF OTHER NATIONS? WE THINK THE ANSWER IS YES -- MORE NOW THAN EVER BEFORE IN THE PAST. THE ETHICS OF CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE OPERATIONS HAVE LONG BEEN DEBATED AND SOME WOULD DO AWAY WITH THEM. BUT THE PLAIN FACT IS THAT NO GREAT STATE CAN ABANDON THEM. THE UNITED STATES NEEDS SOME AGENCY THAT GATHERS INTELLIGENCE. WITHOUT THIS KIND OF INFORMATION WE WOULD BE EXTREMELY VULNERABLE TO THREATS BY WOULD-BE INTERNATIONAL BULLIES. WHAT WE NEED TO MAKE THE C.I.A. VIABLE IS SOME SORT OF INTELLIGENT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT THAT WOULD ENSURE ALL AMERICANS THAT OUR FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOM AND PRIVACY WOULD NOT BE ABUSED. WHETHER YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE, WRITE TO US AND WE'LL FORWARD YOUR COMMENTS TO YOUR CONGRESSMAN AND SENATOR. WRITE TO WRKO, GOVERNMENT CENTER, BOSTON, 02114.

(WRKO recognizes its obligation to provide time for qualified spokesmen to reply to its editorials.)

WRKO - Broadcast - 2/9/76 - 4:50pm
2/10/76 - (once an hour from 12:50am to 8:50am, 10:50am, 12:50pm)

WRKO GENERAL BUILDING, GOVERNMENT CENTER, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114 (617) 742-9000

This is a WRKO Radio editorial presented in the interests of our listeners. Comments on our editorial opinions are welcome, and we recognize our obligation to broadcast opposing views of responsible spokespersons in order to achieve a balanced presentation on this issue.



Dick Brennan
P. O. Box 8
Agawam, Ma. 01001
413-786-0629

February 11, 1976

WRKO
Government Center
Boston, Ma. 02114

Gentlemen:

Yes, I favor a strong and effective C.I.A.

I also favor a much stronger domestic system
of surveillance of American citizens involved
in subversion. That involves some members
of Congress in my opinion.

Yours very truly,


DICK BRENNAN

*I agree completely with the General
Manager's opinion on the C.I.A. position. The
U.S. definitely needs this agency. If the
State Dept. and the FBI are going to be
complaining because nothing was being done
in the past, then and now, they should be
complaining.*

*Sincerely,
Cyril H. Gray
Director*